

# SERGEANTS



THE AIR FORCE AND RESERVE COMPONENTS CONSIST OF ALL GRADES

## COMMITTED TO VETERANS

### *Rep. Bob Filner Advocates Improved Veterans Benefits*

In recognition of his outspoken support of America's service members and veterans, Rep. Bob Filner, D-CA, was presented the L. Mendel Rivers Award of Excellence during AFSA's International Convention in St. Louis, MO.

The award is one of AFSA's highest honors, presented annually to a legislator or member of the federal government who stands up for military service members, veterans and their families. The award is named after L. Mendel Rivers, the late congressman from South Carolina and friend of the enlisted force.

The ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health, Filner has distinguished himself as a key leader in support of servicemembers, veterans and their families.

Enhancing the Montgomery GI Bill is one of AFSA's main legislative priorities in the 107th Congress and Filner has long been a key congressional supporter of significantly improving the value and policies of the MGIB benefit.

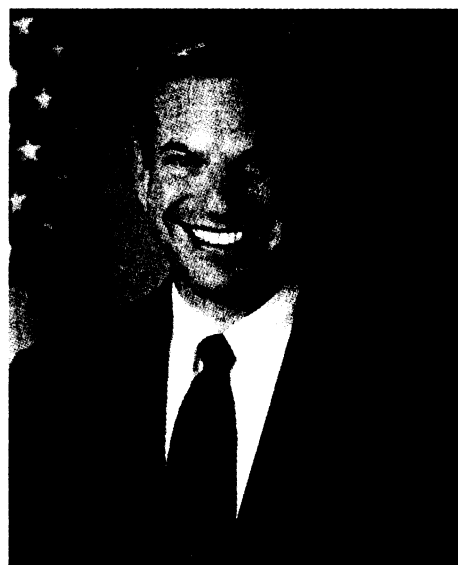
"I believe strongly that if America's veterans are to compete in a 21st Century workforce, they must have the ability to obtain the education and training critical to success," Filner said. "Although the current benefit under the MGIB provides a limited degree of educational assistance, I believe every possible door of educational opportunity must be opened to our veterans."

Filner has also proven to be a

consistent supporter of numerous AFSA Legislative Platform targets such as:

- ★ Eliminating the age-62 reduction in survivor annuity under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and making SBP paid-up for those who are 70 years old and who have paid into the program for 30 years.
- ★ Allowing full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation to those who have earned both.
- ★ Calling for reform of the military voting process.
- ★ Speaking out to overcome the abrogation of the health care promises made by the government to those who served full military careers.
- ★ Providing coverage for health care problems that result from a battlefield environment.

*AFSA Executive Director James Staton discusses the association's position on the enhancement of the Montgomery GI Bill with Rep. Bob Filner, the recipient of this year's L. Mendel Rivers Award of Excellence. The award is one of AFSA's highest honors, presented annually to a legislator or member of the federal government who stands up for military members.*



*Rep. Bob Filner, D-CA*

"Mr. Filner has established a remarkable record in many areas that have improved and promise to enhance the quality of the lives of those whom this association represents," said AFSA Executive Director CMSgt (Ret.) James D. Staton. "His record clearly merits presentation of the L. Mendel Rivers Award of Excellence."

